



FLORIDA HERITAGE

SUMMER 1998

OUR LIGHTHOUSE LOVE AFFAIR

*Benevolent beacons of
artistic simplicity*


The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

*A rich legacy of
magnificent art*

Fairchild Tropical Garden

*Research,
education &
exotic beauty*





*Vacations should be more than
just beaches and umbrella drinks.*

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Here, your thoughts will find endless ways to be provoked. From the Theatre Festival, Hemingway Days and the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West to the Historic Seacraft Race and Island Art Fair in the Lower Keys. From the Florida Keys Renaissance Faire

and Sombrero Cup Regatta in Marathon to the Indian Key Festival in Islamorada and the Island Jubilee in Key Largo. Of course, what would a cultural mecca like this be without some equally enlightening fishing and diving?

For reservations and information on cultural events, call **1-800-FLA-KEYS**. Or visit our web site at www.fl-keys.com. Because while the Florida Keys are a great place to unwind, we'd like you to get to know our deeper side.

THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST
Come as you are

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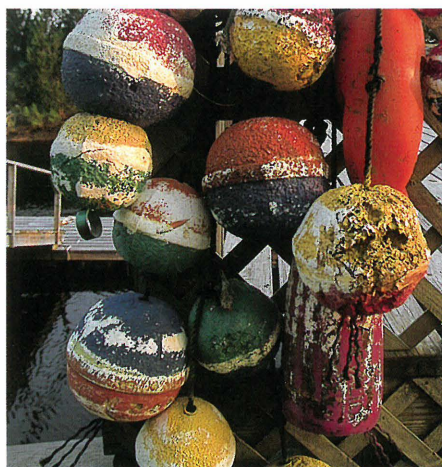
Fairchild Tropical Garden provides a relaxing respite from South Florida's frantic pace.

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One of Florida's greatest art adventures is a visit to beautiful Sarasota and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.



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Water sports, fishing and just communing with nature bring visitors to Steinhatchee.

CENTENNIAL *of the* SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

1898 ★ KEY WEST ★ 1998

REMEMBER THE MAINE EXHIBITION

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February 15 -

August 12, 1998

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: FORGOTTEN MARTYR

Harry S Truman Little White House

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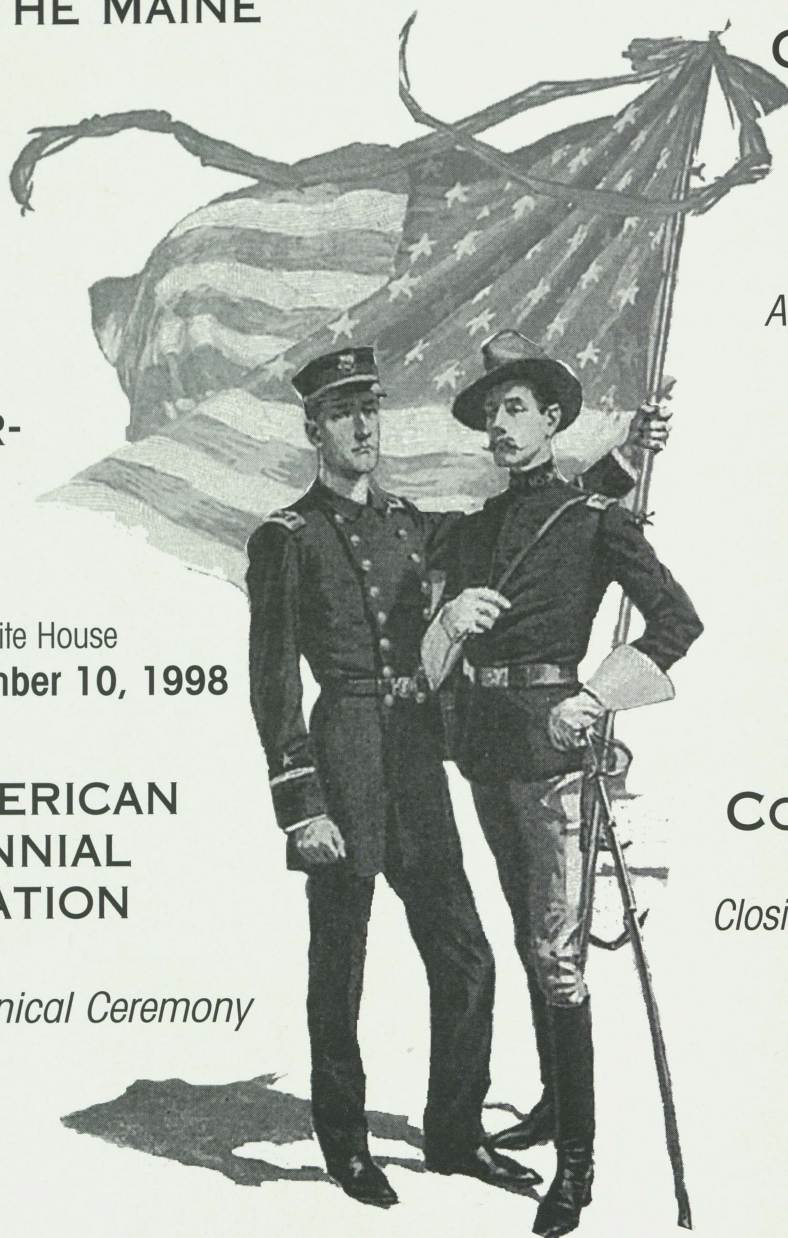
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"Remember the Maine"



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IN THIS ISSUE

FROM VILLAS TO VILLAGES

Summer is a terrific time to explore Florida's historic places. This issue brings four great ideas that you might consider when planning a vacation getaway.

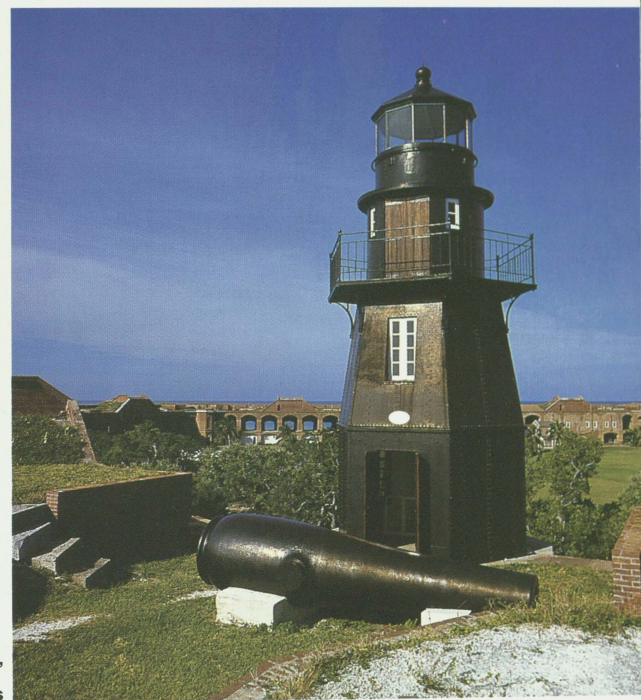
Three of our summer destinations lead you to Florida's coastlines. On the northern Gulf, the quaint fishing village of Steinhatchee offers a step back in time and pace. Here you can fish to your heart's content either in the river or in the Gulf, hike, bike and explore backroads, and enjoy a meal of some of the freshest seafood to be found in Florida.

A completely different journey will take you to an Italian Renaissance style villa beside the sparkling waters of Sarasota Bay. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art showcases 500 years of European art in 22 galleries, and a spacious courtyard with classical statuary.

"Our Lighthouse Love Affair" visits those beacons up and down both coasts, many of which are open to the public.

For a taste of the tropics, don't miss Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, which boasts 83 acres of the loveliest plants and trees you'll see anywhere, many of them found nowhere else in this hemisphere.

From historic seaside villas to coastal fishing villages, Florida has much to offer the summer traveler.

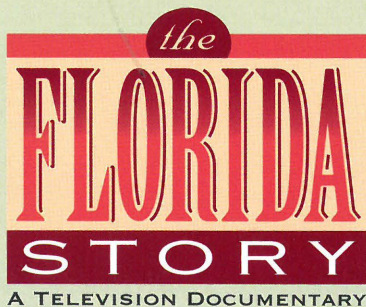


**Fort Jefferson,
Dry Tortugas**

Documenting Florida's Story

Cameras will soon be rolling for production of *The Florida Story*, a six-hour documentary television series covering 500 years of Florida history, being produced by the Florida Public Broadcasting Service. Startup funding for the series was awarded by the Florida Department of State through the Division of Historical Resources. Spanning the scope of Florida's history from the 16th century through modern times, the series will be broadcast on Florida's thirteen public television stations in the year 2000.

A number of other components are being developed in support of the documentary series. *The Florida Story* website at www.floridastory.com features vignettes of Florida history (including past features from *Florida Heritage* magazine), numerous links to other sites of historical interest, continuing updates about the series, and



special areas for kids, including one devoted to encouraging middle and high school students to submit original stories or articles about Florida history. Additional funding from the Florida Department of Education is supporting the development of the program series, the website and other educational components of *The Florida Story* project.

The Florida Story producers welcome any stories, old letters, diaries, recordings, film or photos that you might want to share for the project. Visit *The Florida Story* website, or call (850) 414-9990 ext. 23 for further information.—S.H.

1998 Florida Folk Heritage Awards

Each year the Florida Department of State presents Florida Folk Heritage Awards to Floridians whose lifelong devotion to folk arts has enriched the state's cultural legacy. Like the National Heritage Awards, the Florida Folk Heritage Awards recognize authenticity, excellence and significance within the traditional arts, and honor our most significant and influential traditional artists. This year's recipients are Henry John Billie, Ola Kryway, J.L. McMullen, Llewellyn Roberts and Manuel Vega. The awards were presented by Secretary of State Sandra Mortham at the Florida Folk Festival in May.

Henry John Billie is a master carver of cypress dugout canoes. One of only a few Seminoles in Florida who possess the knowledge to create a dugout, Billie spent his formative years learning the skills to make a canoe from his grandfather and uncles. Today Billie serves as an elder on the Big Cypress Reservation where he preserves the craft by teaching apprentice craftspeople.

Ola Kryway of Titusville decorates Easter eggs using the centuries old Ukrainian method known as *pysanky*. She has practiced the craft for over sixty years. Kryway grew up in an Ukrainian immigrant family that continued to actively preserve many traditions. A former master artist in the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program, Kryway often conducts workshops and demonstrations to further the understanding and appreciation of her art form.

J.L. McMullen has been an advocate of Florida's traditional culture for many years. A resident of Live Oak, McMullen was instrumental in founding the annual Florida Folk Festival in White Springs now celebrating its forty-sixth anniversary. He was also an early advocate for presenting a diverse program that featured Florida's Seminole and African American communities.

Llewellyn Roberts is a Trinidadian Carnival masquerade craftsman. Roberts was born in St. Joseph, Trinidad, but moved with his family to Port of Spain where he learned the skills from other masquerade craftspeople. Since moving to Miami in 1979, Roberts has been instrumental in establishing a Carnival celebration in the West Indian community there. He has also developed exhibits about Carnival masquerade for the Miami Beach Library and has participated in numerous demonstrations at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

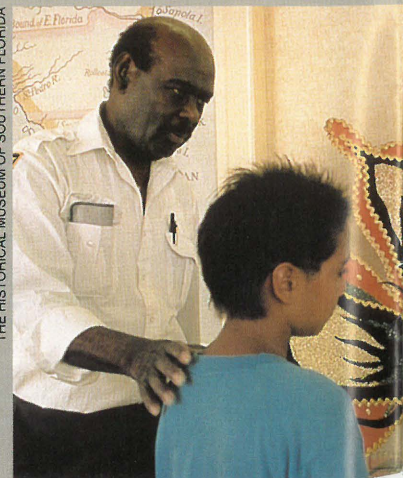
Manuel Vega of Miami is a master craftsman who has spent a lifetime working in traditional Cuban art forms. As a boy in San Antonio de las Vueltas, Cuba, he learned to create *farolas*, decorative lanterns carried during Carnival, and traditional wooden birdcages. Vega also builds Chinese-style kites, which he learned to make while observing Chinese craftsmen in Cuba. A well-respected member of South Florida's Cuban community, Vega served as a master artist in the 1995-1996 Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program.

Henry John Billie



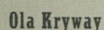
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Mannuel Vega



SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT

J.L. McMullen

Llewellyn Roberts



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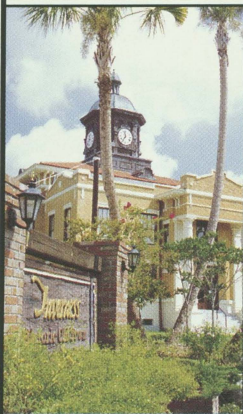
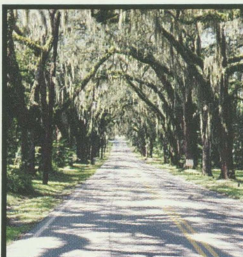
Take a Self-Guided Tour of Historic Citrus County

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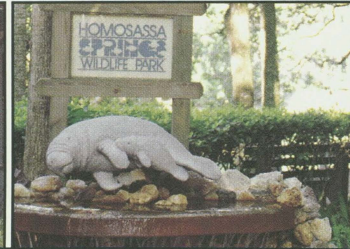
Start your tour in Floral City under the majestic canopy oaks over Orange Avenue adjacent to the residential district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Next stop: downtown Inverness and the 1912 courthouse and the Historical Museum with records dating to 1887. Then, it's on to Crystal River to the Coastal Heritage Museum and the Indian burial grounds. Round out your trip in Homosassa at the remains of an 1800's sugar mill and the Printing Museum.

For a change of pace, visit the State Wildlife Park or browse at some of our 30 antique shops while mingling with some of the friendliest people you've ever met.



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Tallahassee

Civil War Events Mark May 20

In May, Tallahassee was the site for two significant events related to the Civil War. The first was a mid-morning traditional walk

through the Old City Cemetery, sponsored by the

John G. Riley House Museum. Since the 1880s, throughout Florida and

particularly in Tallahassee, black Civil War and postwar casualties have been honored at graveside services. This year, students performed historical reenactments at the cemetery and placed roses on the simple stone markers of Civil War soldiers.

Afterwards, on the steps of the Knott House Museum, a reenactment reading of the Emancipation Proclamation took place. The Knott home was the site of the initial reading of the proclamation in Florida in 1865 by Union General Edward McCook. A reenactor in uniform portrayed General McCook and was accompanied by costumed Civil War officers.

Coinciding with the Emancipation Proclamation activities, the Museum of Florida History recently opened its newest exhibit, *America's Reconstruction—People and Politics after the Civil War*. The exhibit continues through October 25.—PMP.

Reenactment reading of the Emancipation Proclamation on the steps of the Knott House Museum

Traditional graveside services at the Old City Cemetery

Orlando

Historic Coca-Cola Sign Uncovered

A classic Coca-Cola sign, hidden for more than 73 years, was recently uncovered in Orlando. Painted in 1925, the bright red, white and green sign with its classic Coca-Cola logo covered the side of a grocery store built the previous year. The sign was visible for only a few months before construction of an adjacent building completely obscured it. When the nearby building was recently taken down, the long-forgotten sign was revealed. It has since been covered by a sealant to protect it from the elements and possible graffiti damage, and the city is working to ensure its preservation by adding it to its roster of historic places. The sign is located at 71 East Church Street.—M.Z.



1998 STEWARDS OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Since 1989, the Florida Archaeological Council has presented its biannual Stewards of Heritage Preservation Awards to non-archaeologists who have made a commitment to archaeological preservation and education. This year's awards were presented on May 22 at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

Recipients included Dr. Michael Gannon for his promotion of numerous archaeological projects in St. Augustine; Michael Drummond for his work to protect the cultural resources of Alachua County; Kenneth Scott for his production of archaeological publications with the University Press of Florida; Robert Daniels for his work as wildlife officer in Jefferson County; Garfield Beckstead for his preservation of the history and prehistory of Useppa Island; the Anderson family for their efforts to protect St. Petersburg's Narvaez Site; and a Special Lifetime Award to B. Calvin Jones for his nearly three decades of work in Florida archaeology.

This year's Stewards of Heritage Preservation Awards were the first to be presented jointly by the Florida Archaeological Council and the Florida Archaeological Society. The award has been presented to more than 30 persons since its inception.—M.Z.

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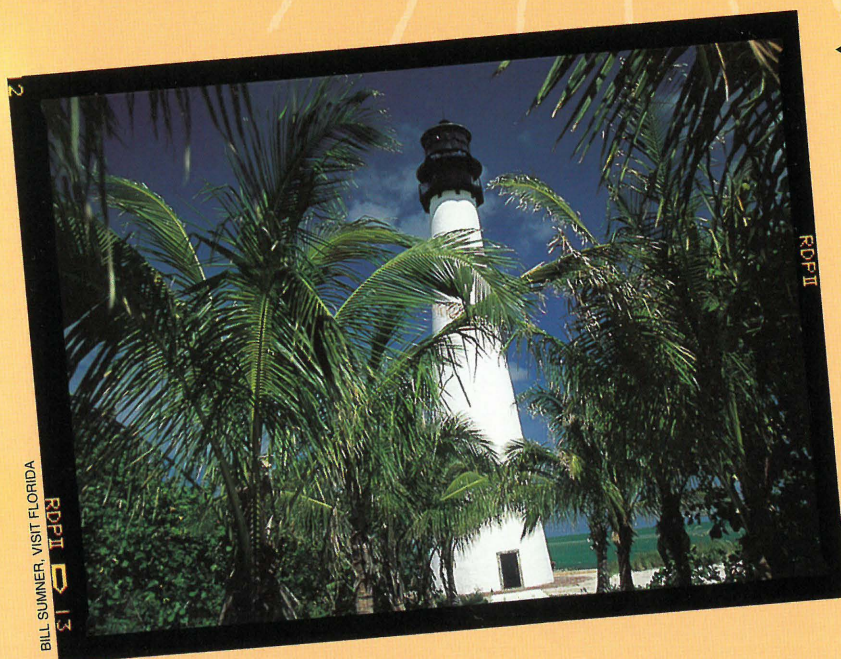
Benevolent beacons for generations of mariners, Florida's lighthouses today welcome visitors by land as well.

[BY MICHAEL ZIMNY]

There's a romance about lighthouses. What we've always liked about lighthouses is that they've always *been* lighthouses. Simple. Noble. Functional. Like other objects born of utility, they caress us in the romance of history, in the stories of the keepers who tended them and the world that changed around them.

With more than 1,100 miles of coastline, most of Florida was settled from the sea. In 1821, when the territory of Florida was annexed to the United States, its three largest cities—Pensacola, St. Augustine and Key West—were all coastal. Yet except for an old Spanish watchtower at St. Augustine, no navigational aids protected mariners from the territory's miles of reef-laden shores. Civilian and military seamen began to pressure the government to mark Florida's coast and oust its infamous pirates who preyed on marine commerce along its treacherous shores.

The task was not an easy one. Soft sands, hurricanes and the territory's sheer remoteness made construction and maintenance of the lights a challenge. Lighthouses at St. Augustine, Key Biscayne, Key West, the Dry Tortugas and Pensacola were among the first built before statehood, using the classic tapered brick tower. However, the brittle nature of masonry construction made this type of structure ill-suited for lighthouses constructed offshore in the unstable, wave-swept waters of the Florida reef and even onshore in some locations. Lighthouse engineers looked to an English design, the screw-pile lighthouse, for an answer. Resembling a giant spider afloat on the sea, this lighthouse consisted of a lantern set atop iron piles screwed into the soft seabed. Not only did it solve the problem of an unstable foundation, but its open framework offered little resistance to hurricane winds and waves. By 1900, more than a dozen iron pile lighthouses guarded Florida's reefs offshore and on land.



◀ CAPE FLORIDA

Dade County's oldest structure, the original Cape Florida lighthouse was built at the southern tip of Key Biscayne but destroyed by a Seminole attack in 1836. The present tower was built in 1847, then rebuilt by George G. Meade in 1855 to reinforce its construction. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew flattened the surrounding terrain but, miraculously, the lighthouse was left standing. A \$1.5 million restoration spearheaded by The Dade Heritage Trust beautifully restored the tower to its 1855 appearance. The lighthouse is located in the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area; call (305) 361-5811 for lighthouse tour information.

OUR LIGHTHOUSE LOVE AFFAIR

"The Spanish light-house stands in haze:

The keeper trims his light;

No sail he sees through the long, long days,

No sail through the still, still night."

*19th century poem by Constance Fenimore Woolson
describing the St. Augustine lighthouse.*



ST. AUGUSTINE

St. Augustine lays claim to one of Florida's first official lighthouses authorized by Congress, built in 1824 on Anastasia Island. The present 161-foot tower dates from 1874 and is the state's only spiral banded lighthouse. It also contains its original first-order Fresnel lens. Six flights of stairs with frequent landings make the climb to the tower's lantern an easy one and well worth the sweeping view it affords of the Ancient City. The beautifully restored keeper's quarters house a gift shop and museum filled with period furnishings from the lighthouse's early years. Open daily; call (904) 829-0745 or visit www.stauglight.com.

The heart of every lighthouse is its beacon, but each tower requires the correct lens to take best advantage of its beam. In 1823, French physicist Jean Augustin Fresnel invented a new optical system that greatly increased the candlepower of lighthouses. By using a combination of prisms, mirrors and magnifying bull's-eyes, light could now be gathered into a stronger, more concentrated beam. Soon, the new Fresnel lens, with its variety of different orders or strengths, was being used in many Florida lighthouses.

Although the image of the lighthouse as a place to live may be a romantic one today, the reality of keepers' lives who tended them was quite different. Heat, mosquitoes, illness, a lack of fresh water and isolation were constant companions. The wife of William Flaherty, the first keeper of the Dry Tortugas' Garden Key lighthouse, wrote to First Lady Mrs. John Quincy Adams complaining bitterly of the heat, putrid cistern, relentless mosquitoes and lack of social life. Still, the men, women and children who tended the lights left behind a wealth of lore and romance that fill pages of lighthouse history.

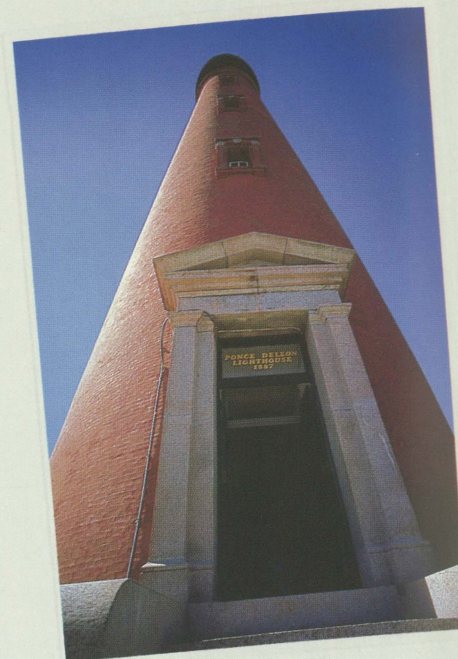
The era of the lighthouse keeper drew to a close in 1939 when jurisdiction of the towers passed from the former Bureau of Lighthouses to the Coast Guard. Automation of the lights followed in the 1960s and suddenly the lighthouse keeper was gone. Unmanned towers were padlocked, keeper's houses abandoned or torn down, and the lighthouses' magic Fresnel lenses left to become home to spiders and sea-birds. Saddest of all were the towers that had been extinguished, reduced to blind soldiers standing with darkened lanterns.

Today, the picture is brighter. Individuals, organizations and governments are working to preserve many of Florida's lighthouses. Several have been completely restored and now welcome visitors to climb their spiral stairs and enjoy the view from their lofty lanterns. Others are located in public parks and can be viewed at close range, although their towers are not open. Even the spider-legged reef lighthouses standing offshore can be easily viewed by boat. If the past does speak to us, then these venerable beacons shine brightly on the pages of history. ■

PONCE DE LEON INLET ▶

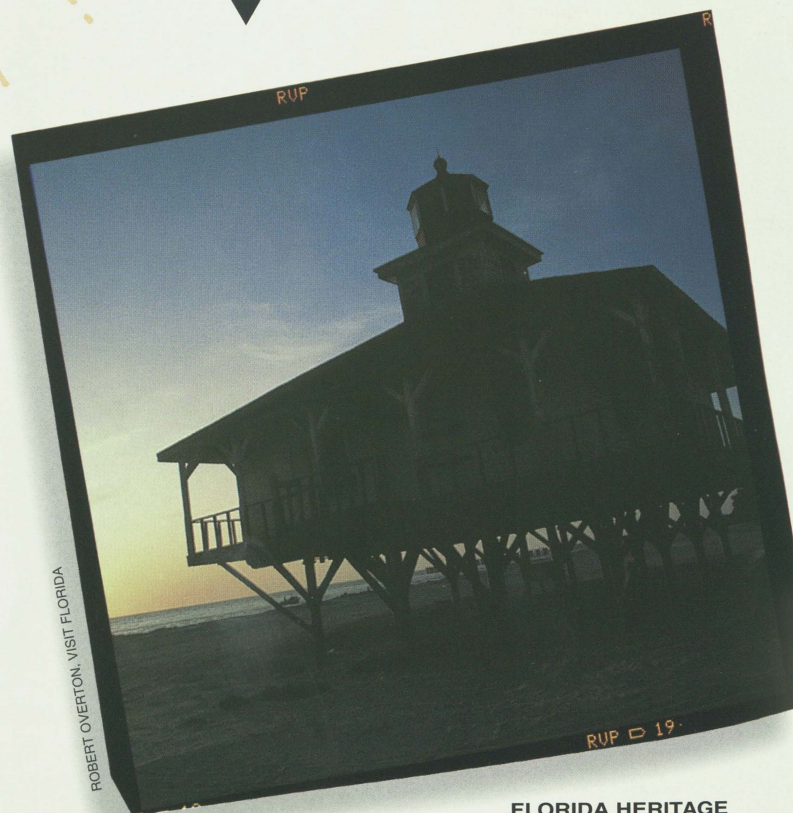
Located a few miles south of Daytona Beach, the 175-foot lighthouse at Ponce de Leon Inlet is the nation's second tallest light. It was completed in 1887 to mark one of the Southeast's most treacherous inlets. Today, it is a thriving museum and is one of only a handful of early light stations to have retained all of its original buildings. Here visitors can see the restored keeper's house, a mariner's museum and several magnificent Fresnel lenses. A 203-step climb to the lighthouse's gallery provides a panoramic view of the Atlantic coast. Open daily; call (904) 761-1821 or visit www.ponceinlet.org.

VISIT FLORIDA



BOCA GRANDE

One of Florida's most unique light stations stands at the southern tip of Gasparilla Island at the entrance to Charlotte Harbor. Constructed in 1890, the lighthouse is a small house-like building topped by a black lantern which resembles a widow's walk. The structure's location explains its modest height: Because the lighthouse served as a harbor beacon rather than a light for more distant Gulf traffic, it could be lower than other towers on the coast. The lighthouse was abandoned in 1967 but was successfully restored in 1986 and now shines with an original Fresnel lens. The lighthouse is located in the Barrier Islands Geo Park and is open the last Saturday of each month. Call (813) 964-0375.



ROBERT OVERTON, VISIT FLORIDA

RUP D 19

FLORIDA HERITAGE

MICHAEL ZIMNY



JUPITER INLET

The distinctive red tower of the Jupiter Inlet lighthouse was first lit in 1860. It was designed by George Gordon Meade, famous not only as a Union General but engineer of several revolutionary screw-pile lighthouses. The 105-foot tall lighthouse contains its original first-order Fresnel lens, possibly the oldest in the state. A small museum in the tower's former oil storage building showcases historical memorabilia from the station's long career. Open Sunday through Wednesday; call (561) 747-8380.

KEY WEST

Florida's most "urban" lighthouse, Key West's first lighthouse was built in 1825 to help mariners navigate the perilous narrow strait between the Gulf Stream and the Florida Reef. A massive hurricane brought down the lighthouse in 1846 but it was soon rebuilt. Now fully restored and maintained by the Key West Art and Historical Society, a climb up its 80 steps provides a good view of the nearby Ernest Hemingway House and Key West. Also open to visitors is the restored keeper's dwelling which contains a museum. Open daily; call (305) 296-1702.

KEY WEST ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Other Florida Lighthouses

Amelia Island (Nassau County)
 St. Johns River-Mayport (Duval County)
 St. Johns Light Station (Duval County)
 Cape Canaveral (Brevard County)
 Hillsboro Inlet (Broward County)
 Fowey Rocks (Dade County)
 Carysfort Reef (Monroe County)
 Alligator Reef (Monroe County)
 Sombrero Key (Monroe County)
 American Shoal (Monroe County)
 Sand Key (Monroe County)
 Garden Key Lighthouse-Fort Jefferson
 (Monroe County) *
 Loggerhead Key-Dry Tortugas
 (Monroe County) *
 Sanibel Island (Lee County) *
 Boca Grande-Entrance Rear Range
 (Lee County) *
 Egmont Key (Hillsborough County) *
 Anclote Key (Pasco County)
 Sea Horse Key (Levy County)
 St. Marks (Wakulla County) *
 Crooked River (Franklin County) *
 Cape St. George (Franklin County)
 Cape San Blas (Gulf County) *
 Pensacola (Escambia County) *

* Grounds open only

BILL SUMNER, VISIT FLORIDA



To Learn More

To learn more about Florida's lighthouses, see the following titles:

Florida Lighthouses by Kevin M. McCarthy and William L. Trotter. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1990.

Guide to Florida Lighthouses by Elinor De Wire. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1987.

Lighthouses, Lightships and the Gulf of Mexico by David L. Cipra. Alexandria: Cypress Communications, 1997.

Reef Lights: Sea-Swept Lighthouses of the Florida Keys by Love Dean. Key West: The Historic Key West Preservation Board, 1982.

An excellent site about lighthouses on the Internet is the Florida Lighthouse Page at www.erols.com/lthouse/home.htm. Lighthouse lovers may want to join the Florida Lighthouse Association which offers free admission to participating lighthouses depending on membership level, as well as other visitor information. Call (904) 761-1821 or visit their web site at www.netfuture.com/fla/.

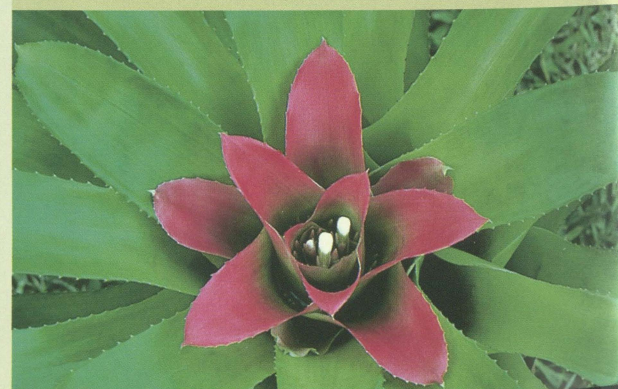
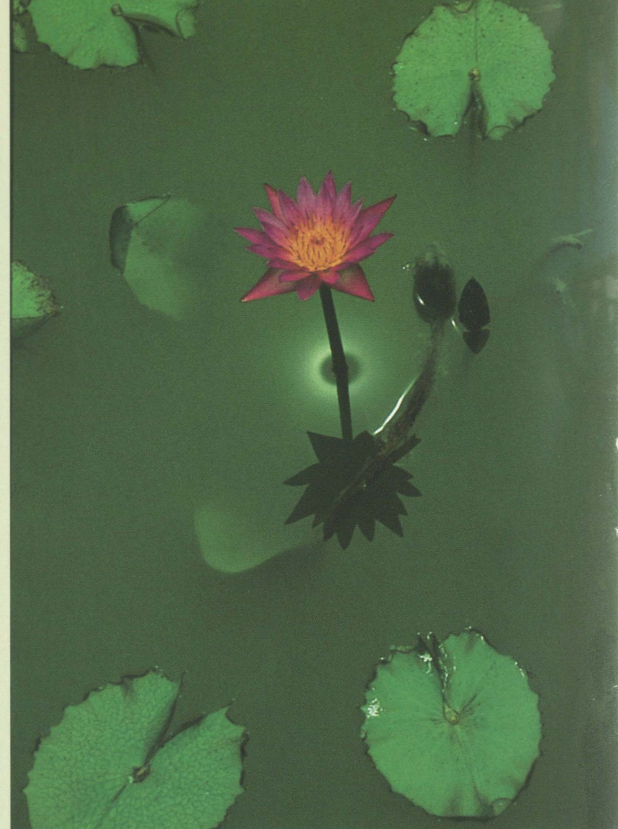
A TROPICAL EXPEDITION

[BY RUSTY ENNEMOSER]

Nestled among exclusive gated communities along a winding road famous for its lush ficus canopy is a garden like no other in the United States. Although popular among locals as a respite from the frenetic Miami traffic, Fairchild Tropical Garden is world-renowned as a center for botanical research, and visitors come from around the world to experience its tropical delights.

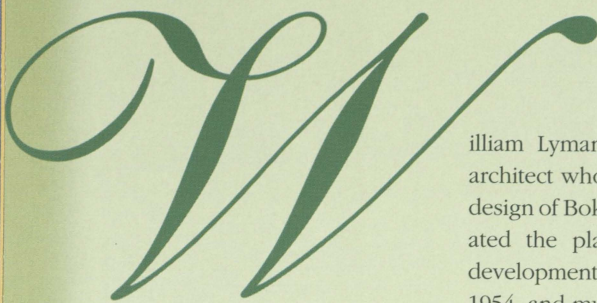
On 83 acres beside Biscayne Bay grows a living laboratory of palms, cycads and other tropical and subtropical plants. Rare plants from tropical areas around the world, flowering trees and vines, and native specimens are grown with others in the same family or with those sharing similar habitats. Palm glades, rain forests, cactus gardens, hibiscus collections: they're all here because south Florida is the only region in the continental United States where tropical and subtropical plants live outside all year long. But they're also here because of the dreams of two men.

Established in 1938, the garden was the vision of amateur plant collector Colonel Robert H. Montgomery who enlisted the aid of his neighbor, Dr. David Fairchild, world famous botanist and plant explorer, to create a botanical garden which would combine both beauty and science. Many of the plants here were collected by Dr. Fairchild on his worldwide expeditions, including the giant Baobab tree located near the museum building. As a result of his travels, Fairchild introduced many plants into this country, including mangos, alfalfa, dates, bamboos, nectarines, horseradish and flowering cherry trees.



A photograph of a tropical garden. In the foreground, there are large, spiky-leafed plants, possibly Pandanus, framing the left and right sides. A calm pond reflects the sky and the surrounding greenery. In the background, a dense forest of various tropical trees, including several tall palm trees, rises against a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

Throughout its 60
year history, Fairchild
Tropical Garden has
upheld its original
mission of research,
education, and, of
course, exotic beauty.



William Lyman Phillips, landscape architect who collaborated on the design of Bok Tower Gardens, created the plan. Phillips oversaw development of the garden through 1954, and much of the early labor

was provided by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers.

In his memoirs, Phillips wrote, "Col. Montgomery expressed no opinion other than that there should be the palms on the one side and 'flowering trees' on the other, that the place should be a garden rather than a park, and that palms looked best standing on a smooth lawn." Today, the Montgomery Palmetum and the Bailey Palm Glade contain some 900 different species of palms from around the world. Colorful heliconias surround the Amphitheater, built by the CCC in 1940.

Phillips' plan called for open vistas contrasted with dense plantings. He compared open spaces with rooms and corridors in an art gallery. A walk through Fairchild Garden today reflects his original ideas, where every turn on a path brings a breathtaking view. During the right time of year, the pergola boasts the aquamarine blooms of a jade vine; a short stroll away are the brilliant orange and fuchsia flowers of the bougainvillea, down another path are the singing bamboos. Overlooks provide panoramic vistas of carefully designed lakes and walkways.

The 26-acre Lowlands, originally a mangrove swamp, was dredged by the CCC to create a chain of small lakes. This area contains a collection of endangered plants from the Bahamas, a Mayan fruit garden based on planting methods in the Yucatan, and a bamboo garden with more than twenty species.

"Windows to the Tropics" is a conservatory that contains huge tree ferns, palms, orchids and banana plants. Before Hurricane

Andrew in 1992, it was called the Rare Plant House, and when that monster storm destroyed it and 1,200 trees in the garden, it was rebuilt and given new life. The red sealing wax palm, a popular plant in the building, was crushed when the building was destroyed, but the roots survived and the plant has regenerated. Many of the downed trees were salvaged and local artists used the rare woods to create an exhibit titled "Harvest the Wind." Some of the sculptures are exhibited in the Garden House.

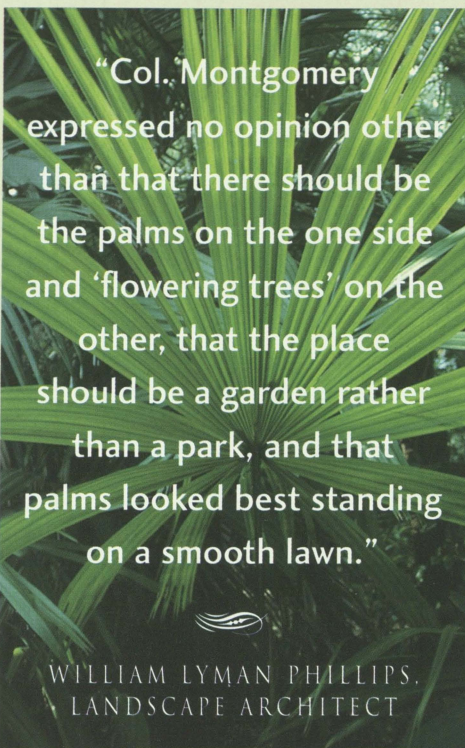
The Gate House Museum, the oldest building on the property, was designed by Phillips and built in 1939. Recently restored with the help of historic preservation funds, the building contains articles made from plant materials from around the world and displays about Fairchild's expeditions and those of modern day explorers.

Fairchild and Montgomery envisioned the garden as a living museum and a center of learning and discovery. Today it offers a comprehensive program of classes for adults, activities for children and school groups, science and environmental programs for teachers, and technical sessions for scientists. Nearly every month the Garden celebrates something. July, for instance, is Mango Month, with displays of 150 varieties of the fruit, workshops, auctions, and samplings. November 14-15 brings The Ramble, so famous locally that visitors line up in the pre-dawn hours to get inside for this gardening extravaganza where they buy native and exotic

plants, books, garden supplies, and food. More than 1,300 attended the first day of the Rainforest Festival in April.

Collecting and research continues today by Fairchild's modern-day plant explorers, who go on collection expeditions all over the world. The Fairchild Herbarium, open to visitors only by special arrangement, contains more than 80,000 dried plant specimens, and its library is a major resource for scientists, students and naturalists.

For those who love to walk, Fairchild Garden is the perfect setting. But hourly tram tours leaving from the Garden Shop near the entrance can allow the visitor to relax and experience almost the entire garden with the help of knowledgeable guides. A conveniently located café provides cool drinks and snacks. Thoughtfully placed benches throughout the garden offer rest for the weary or for those who simply want to sit and take in the beauty. ■



JEFFERY KNEE

To Learn More

Fairchild Tropical Garden is located at 10901 Old Cutler Road. It is open from 9:30 am to 4 pm every day except December 25. Admission is \$8; children 12 and under are admitted free. Take a cyberspace look at the Garden at www.ftg.org, where you can order books from the extensive Garden Shop or get a close-up view of some of the Garden's prettiest sites. For more information, call (305) 667-1651.

David Fairchild wrote several books, including *The World Was My Garden*, *The World Grows Round My Door*, and *Garden Islands of the Great East*. The latter two are no longer in print, but might be found in used bookshops. Thomas Barbour's *That Vanishing Eden: A Naturalist's Florida* was written in 1944. *Pioneer of Tropical Landscape Architecture: William Lyman Phillips in Florida* by Faith Reyher Jackson was published by University Press of Florida and reviewed in the last issue of *Florida Heritage*.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: S. KORES, JEFFERY KNEE, JAY GOOD, FAIRCHILD GARDEN





CIRCUS MAGNATE TURNED ART COLLECTOR,
JOHN RINGLING'S COLLECTION IS OPEN FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

The two sides of John Ringling—circus tycoon and art collector—offered a curious balancing act that many found difficult to understand. How were the two related? It was a question answered, perhaps most adroitly, in a 1928 article for *Art News* magazine: “. . . The gift of showmanship, the energy, the vitality, the enthusiasm which made the circus thrilling are excellent qualifications for the man who would meet the old masters on familiar terms. . . . It is quite natural that great scale should be one of the foremost attributes of Mr. Ringling's museum's huge galleries, enormous pictures, imposing names.”

It began with the circus. At the age of sixteen, Ringling and his brothers were part of a touring comic concert company which evolved into a circus. He seemed to be a genius in the area of finance, routing shows and contracting work for the group. His extensive travel to Europe to establish show connections led to a growing interest in art.

When his brothers returned to the family home in Baraboo, Wisconsin during the winter months and off-season, Ringling would spend time in

THE JOHN AND MABLE Ringling Mu





seum of Art

The Departure of Lot and His Family, Peter Paul Rubens, Flemish, 1577-1640, about 1615.

Ringling Museum of Art

New York and Chicago, developing personal and business relationships. He invested in real estate, banking, railroads, hotels, show business and the arts, giving strength to his reputation as "a one-man conglomerate."

In 1905, John married the beautiful Mable Burton of Ohio and together they began spending their winters in Florida, first in Tarpon Springs and Tampa, and ultimately in Sarasota. In 1926, they built the exquisite waterfront mansion Ca' d'Zan, an exuberant example of American decorative architecture. This exotic Venetian palace was designed by Dwight James Baum, and Mable Ringling was very involved in hiring the craftsmen that would make it a Florida landmark. The Ca' d'Zan, Venetian dialect for "House of John," is a must see, although it is currently undergoing extensive restoration.

Sarasota benefited enormously by the Ringlings' love for the community. While they understood the financial reward involved in their development ventures, they also knew the importance of bringing people to the city. Ringling advertised Florida's west coast as his circus toured the nation. And when the people came, Ringling built causeways connecting Sarasota to the neighboring barrier islands where he could offer them property. For those who just wanted to visit, he began construction of a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The collapse of the Florida land boom stopped its progress.

To bolster Sarasota's economy in the face of Florida's economic downswing, Ringling transferred the winter headquarters of the circus from Connecticut to Sarasota in 1927. For a mere quarter, visitors could watch circus performers rehearse for the coming year's tour. It was an idea that firmly placed Sarasota on the map.

The circus industry was a critical element of Ringling's early financial success, and was the vehicle which allowed him to indulge in his great love of art. His travel during his circus years took him to Europe, where he collected over six hundred Baroque masterpieces within five years, including four so-called tapestry cartoons by Peter Paul Rubens, giant paintings up to fourteen by nineteen feet in size. His collection of Rubens' work alone was thought to be the finest in the world.

Ultimately, the people of Florida were the beneficiary of Ringling's connoisseurship. Upon his death in 1936, Ringling willed his art museum, residence and its entire contents to the State of Florida. After ten years of negotiation, the state assumed responsibility for the property in 1946.

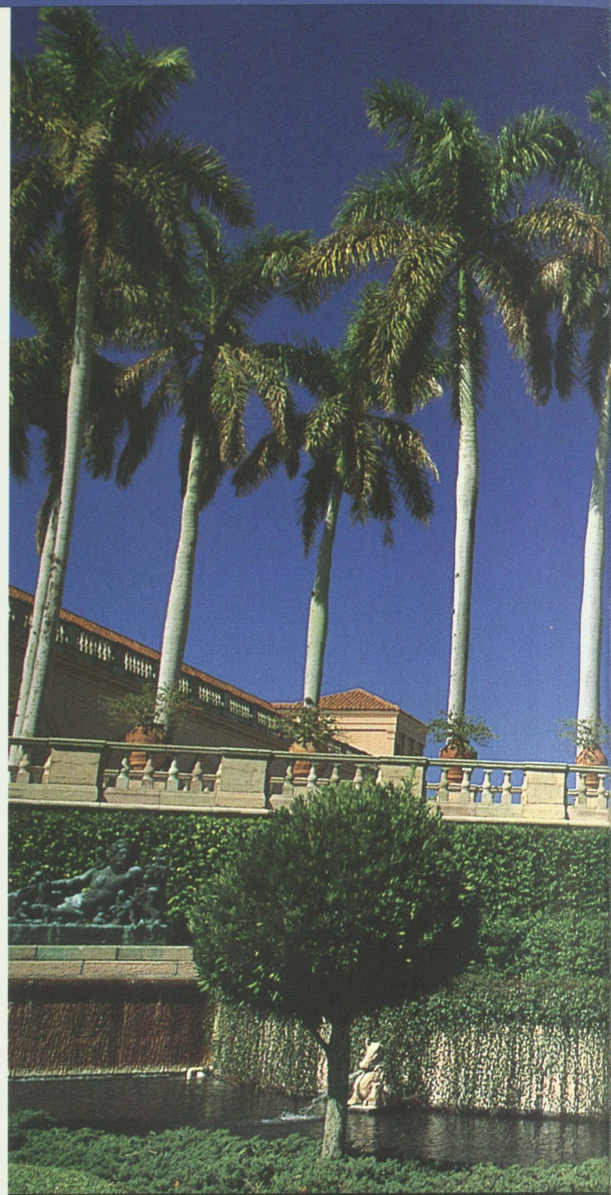
Today, a wide parkway welcomes the visitor to Ringling's magnificent art museum. Completed in 1929, the building was designed in the style of a grand fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance palazzo by John Henry Phillips, who had assisted in the design of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

To Learn More

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is located at 5401 Bay Shore Road in Sarasota, just off of U.S. Highway 41. Traveling north or south on I-75, take exit 40 (University Pkwy) and head due west approximately five miles directly to the museum. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and there is an admission fee. Call the museum at (941) 351-1660 or visit its website at www.ringling.org.

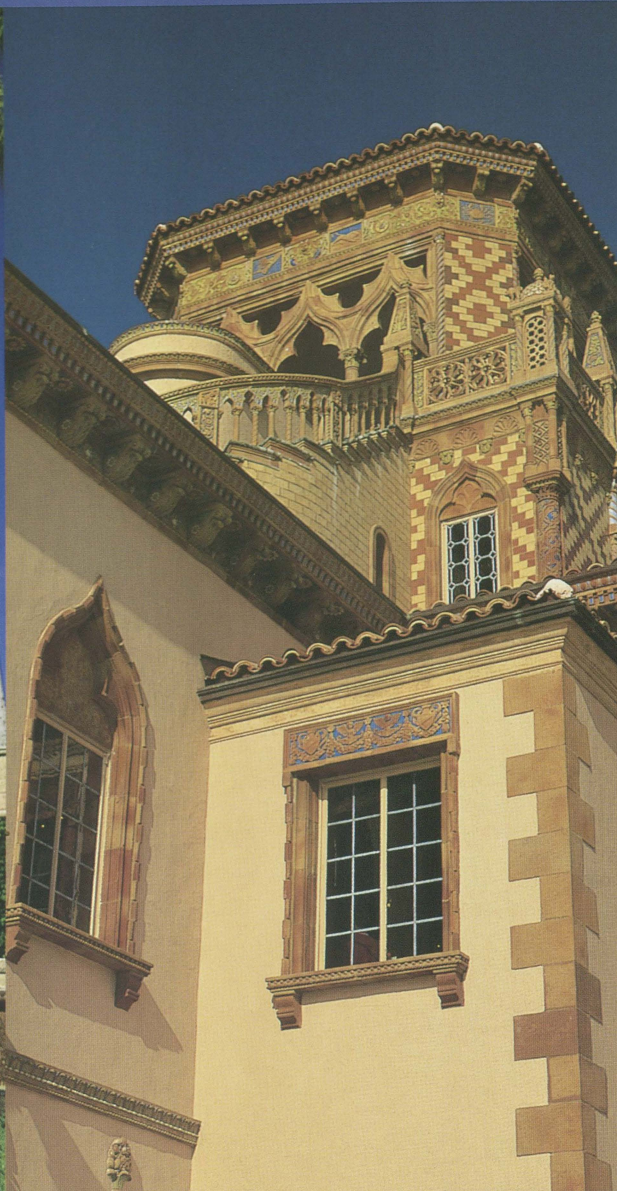
Entering the vast, U-shaped building, numerous galleries with quiet lighting, rich paneling, and cool wall colors display more than 500 years of art. The museum is best known for its collection of Baroque art, including Rubens' *Triumph of the Eucharist*, Frans Hals' *Pieter Olycan*, and Nicolas Poussin's *Holy Family*. Additionally, on display are works from the Late Medieval Period through the 20th century. Between the museum's two wings visitors can stroll in the beautifully landscaped courtyard, graced by bronze replicas of classical and Renaissance sculpture, including Michelangelo's *David* and *The Fountain of Oceanus*.

The Ringling Museum complex also includes the nineteenth-century Asolo Theater imported from Italy and the Museum of the Circus. Together, they form a rich legacy of which Floridians can be very proud. ■



Above left: Courtyard, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art; Above right:





A detail of Ca' d'Zan's decorative architecture; Bottom left: *The Four Evangelists*, Peter Paul Rubens studios, 1625; Bottom center: Sculpture in the Courtyard; Bottom right: *Hagar and the Angel*, Pietro da Cortona, 1637



STEINHATCHEE

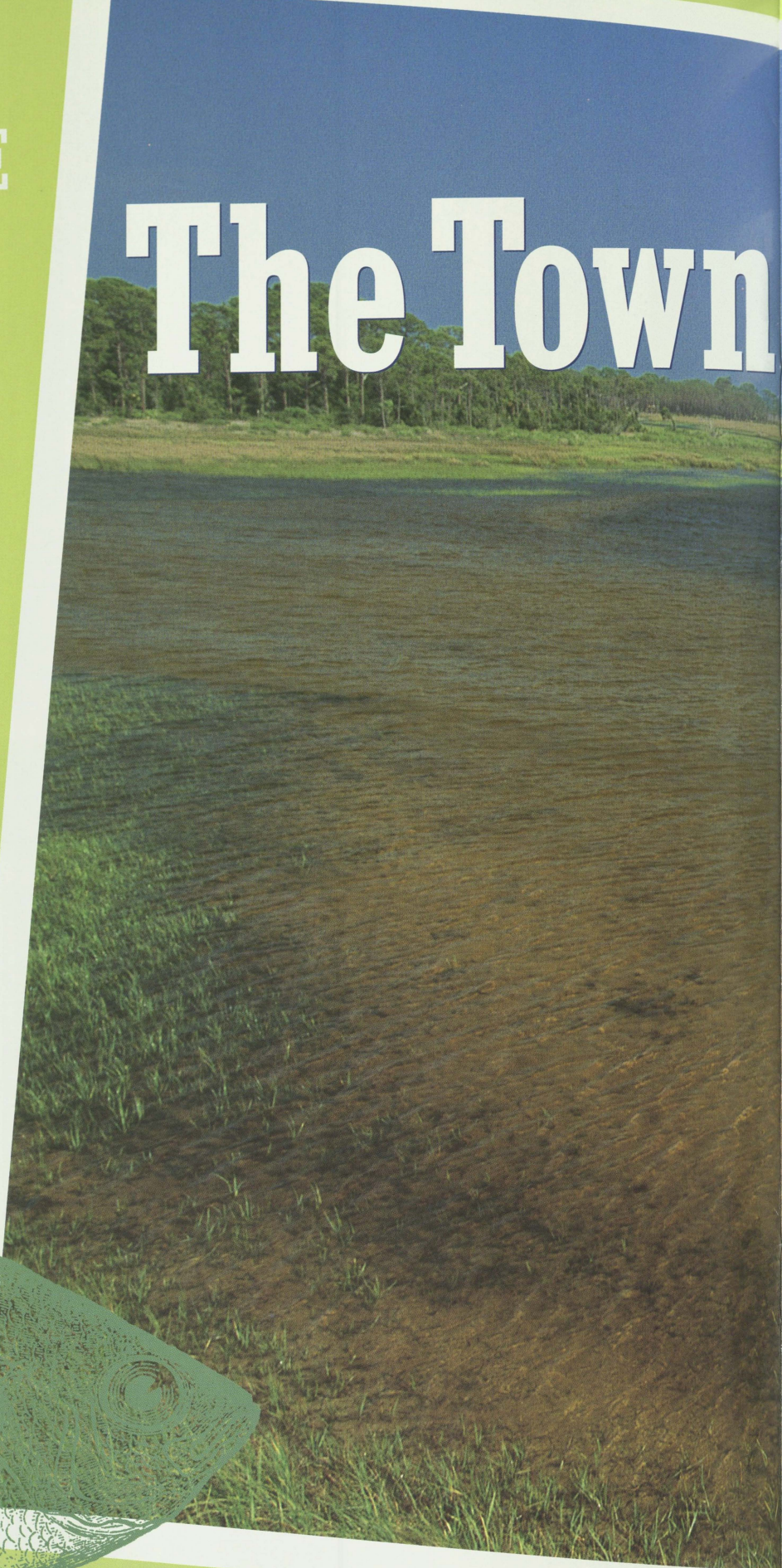
Imagine gliding down a peaceful river at daybreak, steam rising mysteriously from the amber water.

A tangle of lush foliage—water



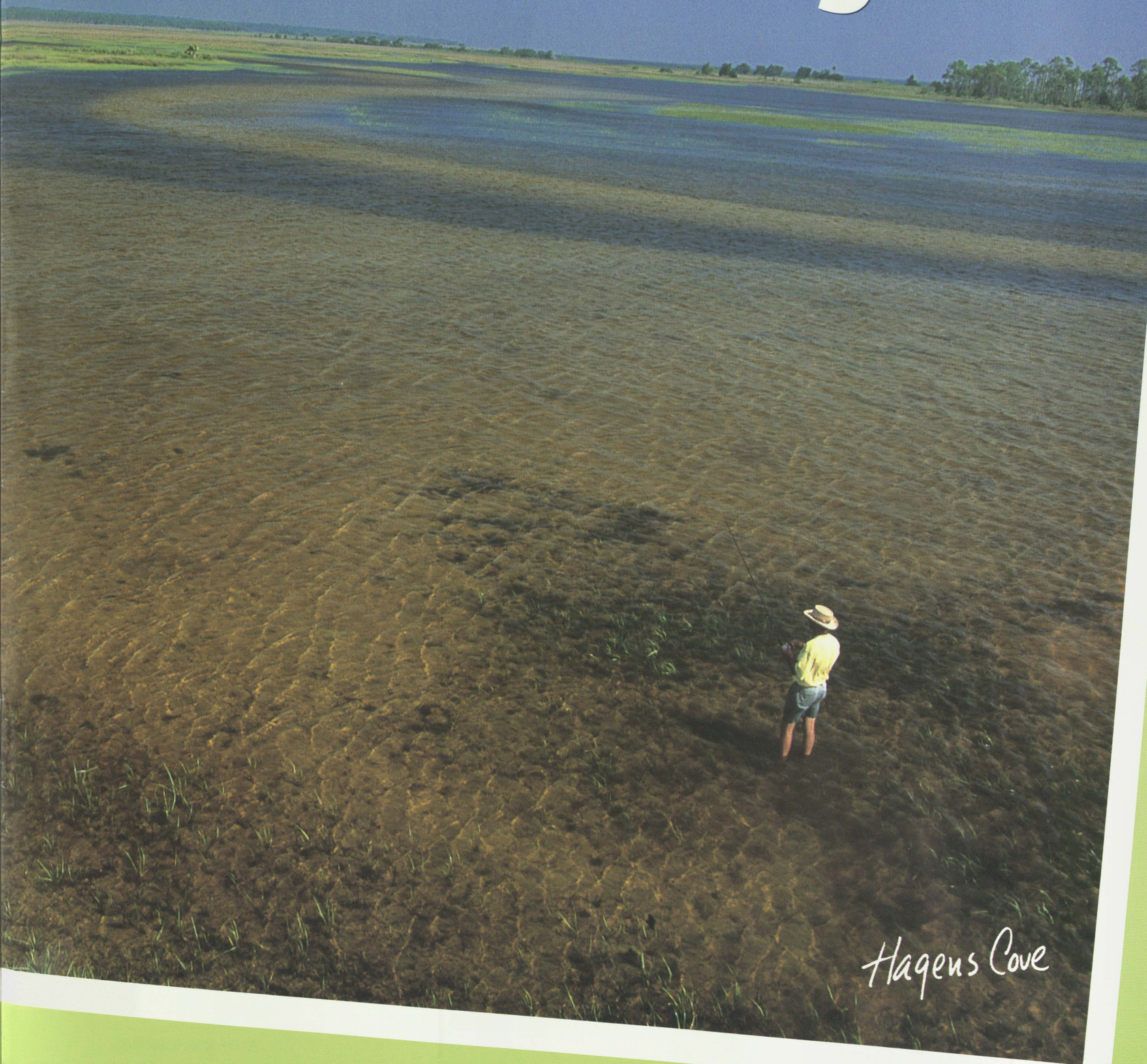
oaks, cypress, and cabbage palms—leans invitingly toward you from the banks. A lone blue heron stands so still in the shallows near the bank that you overlook it until slowly it spreads its wings and glides into the cobalt sky.

The Town



STORY BY
TINA BUCUVALAS
*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
RAY STANVARD

That Time Forgot



Hagens Cove



A local resort recreates Cracker architecture.

It's not a dream. This vision still exists in the tiny fishing town of Steinhatchee on Florida's Nature Coast. Due to its location and vast tracts of government land that surround it, Steinhatchee (pronounced steen-HATCH-ee) remains relatively untouched by modern development.

Florida's coastal waters and inland rivers and lakes have produced a vigorous commercial fishing tradition. Generations of Floridians have engaged in fishing and related activities such as shipping, seafood distribution or making maritime equipment.

In the Steinhatchee area, fishermen build bird dog or tunnel boats. These wide, one-man boats with a lifted bow are capable of navigating shallow waters. Fishermen still relate stories of legendary local fisherman Shade O'Stein. Back in the days before motorboats, O'Stein is reputed to have given the other fishermen a break from the hard work of rowing by hooking their boats to his skiff and pulling them to shore.

Many Steinhatchee residents

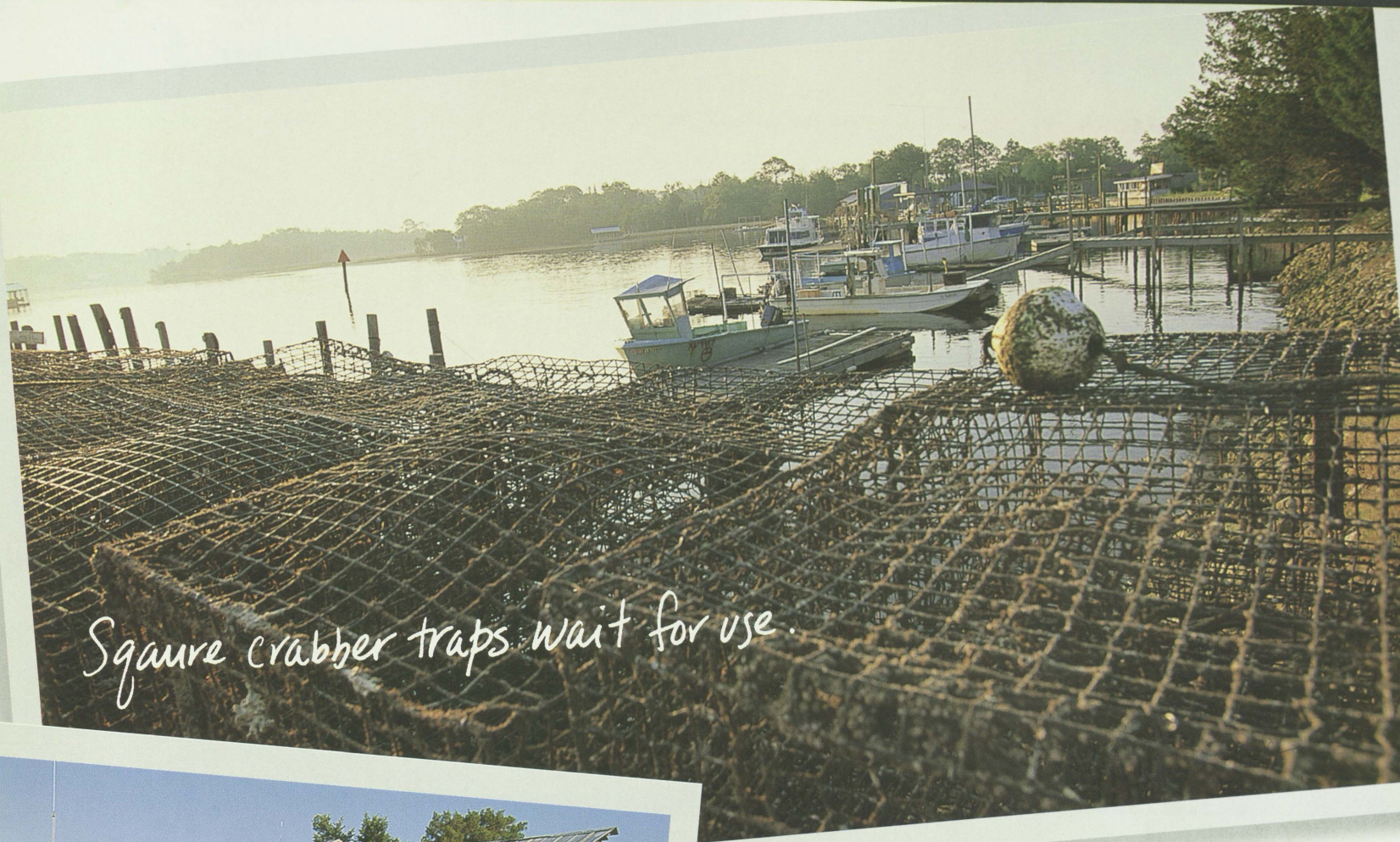
still possess the knowledge necessary to build boats, make nets, locate and catch fish. The local haul includes both blue crabs and stonecrabs. Crabbers build wire traps to catch blue crabs and heavier wooden traps for the stone crabs. Across the river in neighboring Jena, dozens of square traps stacked row upon row wait for use.

Dating back to the 1930s and continuing until the 1960s or 1970s, Greek sponge fishermen from Tarpon Springs would bring large fleets of boats to gather the sponges that grow in the coastal waters off Steinhatchee. Some of these fishermen have remained in the area, settling into the fishing or restaurant businesses that line the river bank in the small downtown area. Here, fishermen clean the seafood on site, then pack it for distribution or sale in town.

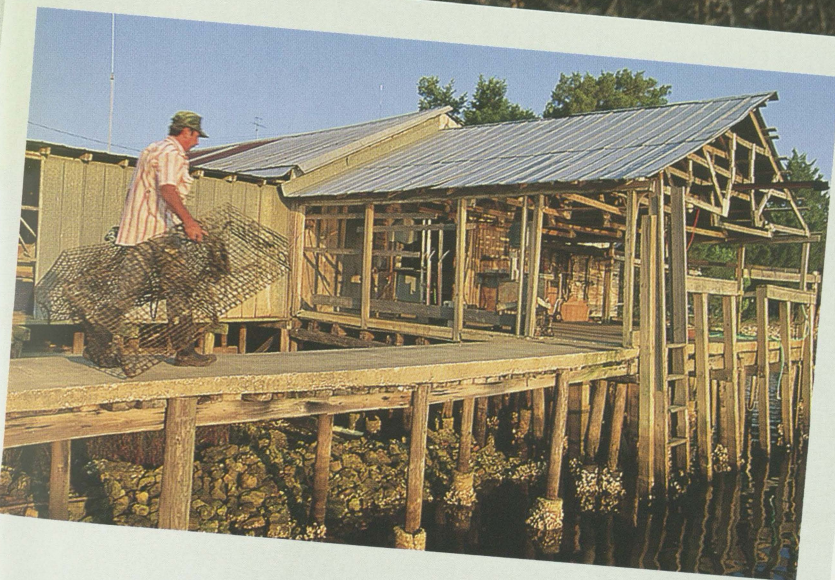
Steinhatchee has long been a noted destination for anglers from north Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. The waters teem with mackerel, permit, grouper, porgy, grunt, mullet, pompano, trout, flounder, shrimp and crabs. Scallop season,



Shops offer unique items for sale to visitors.



Square crabber traps wait for use.



On the waterfront.

from July 1 through September 10, draws many enthusiasts to the Steinhatchee area. Although most anglers come for the saltwater fishing, those in the know also pursue such freshwater species as bass and catfish in the Steinhatchee River.

There are a wide variety of recreational activities for visitors to enjoy in Steinhatchee. Charter boats and guides for fishing and diving expeditions are available along the river. Diving recently has become a popular activity in Steinhatchee, particularly during the

spring, fall, and winter when the water is the clearest. Visitors also enjoy other recreational water sports such as snorkeling, canoeing, and jet skiing, especially during the summer months. Birders will delight in the opportunity to view such Florida denizens as white pelicans, osprey and anhingas.

Steinhatchee offers many types of accommodations, from sleepy old motels to luxury housing. Among the most interesting is a community of rental and private cottages designed by University of Florida architect Ronald Haas, who is known for his interest in Florida's Cracker architecture. The beautiful, well-appointed Cracker and Victorian cottages cluster along walks that meander through a shady landscape near the river. Along the way is a sizable garden that supplies fresh vegetables to a nearby gourmet restaurant specializing in regional cuisine. Despite modern amenities and activities for everyone, visitors experience the quiet relaxation of a slower, rural Florida as they relax on porches overlooking the garden or a shaded creek. ■

To Learn More

Steinhatchee is located on the northern Gulf Coast near Perry. From I-75, exit on Highway 26 and go west to Highway 19. Take Highway 19 north to Highway 51, then go west 8 miles. The Steinhatchee Landing serves as a clearinghouse for information about the area. Write them at P.O. Box 789, Highway 51 North, Steinhatchee, Florida 32359, call (352) 498-3513.

Summer 1998

Through August 9

St. Petersburg

Andy Warhol at the Dali. An exhibit of Warhol's work featuring the famous Campbell Soup cans, portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis from the 1960s through 1980s. Salvador Dali Museum.
(800) 442-3254

Through August 16

Sarasota

Featuring Florida '98. Juried art exhibit showcasing Florida artists in all media. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.
(941) 359-5715

Through August 15

St. Augustine

Mariner's Compass Quilts. Collection of eighteen quilts that interprets the traditional mariner's compass pattern. The St. Augustine Light-house and Museum.
(904) 829-0745

Through August 30

Orlando

The Spanish American War—A Centennial. Exhibit celebrating the Spanish American War, utilizing artifacts and never-before-seen photographs of the conflict. Orange County Historical Museum.
(407) 897-6350

Through September 1

Boca Raton

20 Years of Garfield Birthday and Exhibition. Pays tribute to Garfield's early years and his rise in the cartoon kingdom. International Museum of Cartoon Art.
(561) 391-2200

Through September 15

Miami Beach

Public Works. An exhibit that examines the role of public art in America, with WPA and other Depression-era mural studies. The Wolfsonian—Florida International University.
(305) 531-1001

Through October 25

Tallahassee

America's Reconstruction—People and Politics After the Civil War. Exhibit filled with important artifacts that describe the turbulent and unusual political years following the Civil War. Museum of Florida History.
(850) 488-1484

Through February, 1999

Gainesville

Buddhist Sculpture Along the Trade Routes. Thematic exhibit that explores the spread of Buddhism and the evolution of Buddhist sculpture along Asian trade routes. Harn Museum of Art.
(352) 392-9826

July 18-19

Everglades

Annual Everglades Music and Crafts Festival. Native American heritage events, music, foods and alligator wrestling. Miccosukee Indian Village.
(305) 223-8380

July 25

Miami

International Mango Festival. Celebration of the "king of tropical fruit" that includes fruit tastings, a mango auction and cooking demonstrations. Fairchild Tropical Garden.
(305) 667-1651

July 25–October 4

Daytona Beach

Coast to Coast—The Contemporary Landscape in Florida from the Geiger-Percy Collection. Exhibit showcasing current trends in painting Florida's landscape. The Museum of Arts and Sciences.
(904) 255-0285

August 2

Miami

Miami Reggae Festival. Event highlighted by local and international musicians, along with ethnic foods that offer a flavor of the Caribbean.
(305) 891-2944

Buddhist Sculpture

Along the Trade

Routes, Gainesville

Andy Warhol

at the

Salvador Dali

Museum,

St. Petersburg

August 4–December 4

Tampa

Tampa 1898—The Spanish American War and the Homefront. Exhibit utilizing artifacts and photographs that place Tampa as the point of embarkation during the war. Tampa Bay History Center.
(813) 228-0097

August 9

Gainesville

Writing Workshop—Honoring Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Focus on writing about the people and the region where you live and how to make it appeal to readers everywhere. Gainesville Association for the Creative Arts.
(888) 917-7001

August 15

Delray Beach

Bon Festival. Japanese folk dancing, street fair and lantern floating. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.
(561) 495-0233

August 1

DeLeon Springs

A Day in Florida History. Reenactment of the Second Seminole Indian War in Florida in 1836, storytelling, craft demonstrations and food.
(904) 985-4212

August 15-16

Cocoa

Fais Dos-Dos Cajun Festival and Craft Show. Art and craft show, cajun and dixie music, ethnic foods at F. Burton Smith Park.
(407) 632-7445

August 29–October 25

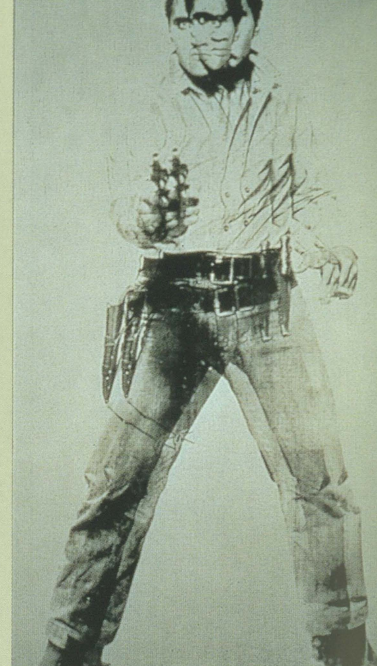
West Palm Beach

Posters American Style. An exhibit surveying 120 posters that address the issues, events and cultural aspects of American life over the last 100 years. Norton Museum of Art.
(561) 832-5196

September 7

Dade City

Pioneer Florida Day. Arts and crafts show, crafts demonstrations, storytelling, food, historical exhibits and music. Pioneer Florida Museum Association.
(352) 567-0262



September 8-11**Key West**

Florida Association of Museums Annual Conference and Exposition. Four-day, three-night programming for museum professionals. (850) 222-6028

September 25-27**Lake Placid**

Caladium Festival. Tours include beautiful vistas of caladium plants and the downtown mural program. (941) 465-4331

October 10**Gulfport**

Birthday Bash. Celebration of the founding of Gulfport 88 years ago. Includes historic streetcar tours, fish fry, Civil War reenactment, crafts and children's activities. Gulfport Historical Society. (813) 327-0505

October 10-11**Jacksonville**

The Kingsley Heritage Celebration—200 Years. Lectures, musical and dramatic performances, a reunion of descendants of plantation inhabitants, and foods. Kingsley Plantation. (904) 251-3537

October 11**Fort Myers**

Hispanic Heritage Festival. Terry Park event that includes entertainment, food, music, dancing and crafts. (941) 334-3190

October 17**Estero**

Koreshan Unity Solar Festival. A festival celebrating the birth of Dr. Cyrus Teed, founder of Koreshan Unity, a Florida Utopian community. (941) 992-2184

October 17-18**Tampa**

CraftArt '98. Juried craft show celebrating the diversity of fine crafts in the areas of clay, wood, fiber, metal, paper, glass and mixed media. University of Tampa and Florida Craftsmen, Inc. (813) 821-7391

November 4-8**Sarasota**

Forest Canopies 1998—Global Perspectives. This symposium invites scholars from diverse fields of sciences to discuss the conservation of the world's forests. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. (941) 366-5731

November 7-8**Barberville**

Fall Country Jamboree. Folk arts, crafts, music, dance, storytelling, folkways and food. Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts. (904) 749-2959

Please call the number listed to verify dates. There may be an admission charge for some events. Listings for the calendar should be mailed at least four months in advance to Florida Heritage Magazine, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or faxed to (850) 922-0496.

V • I • S • I • T

HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE

*Be a part of the living history
of days gone by...*

Historic Pensacola Village takes you back into the era of Spanish explorers, seafaring men, Victorian ladies, and Creole women. Visit the unique complex of museums, homes, and grounds that are some of America's oldest.

Village hours: 10 a.m.—4 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday.

Tickets available at the Tivoli High House, 205 East Zaragoza.

For more information, call (850) 595-5985.

Group, senior citizen, and military discounts available.

See Fort Lauderdale Once Upon a Time

Bonnet House

Nestled within the modern city of Fort Lauderdale are three historical treasures filled with architectural richness and colorful history. A visit to these sites is a journey through time, and an experience to remember!



Located between the beach and Intracoastal Waterway just south of Sunrise Boulevard at 900 North Birch Road. (954) 563-5393

Stranahan House

Located in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, at Las Olas Boulevard and SE 6th Avenue. (954) 524-4736

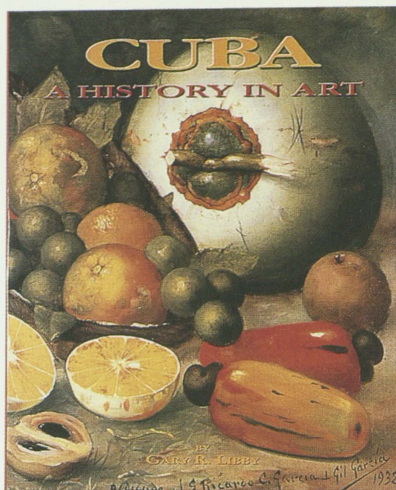
Historical Museum

Located in the Historic District at 219 SW 2nd Avenue. (954) 463-4431

Bonnet House is a property of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Funding provided by the Broward Cultural Affairs Council.



Illustrations by Susan Dvorak



CUBA: A HISTORY IN ART

By Gary R. Libby. With an essay and notes by Juan A. Martinez.

Daytona Beach: The Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1997. 103pp.

ISBN 0-933053-12-6., \$24.95, Hardcover.

Cuba: A History in Art is a handsome volume created to accompany an exhibition of one of the few large collections of Cuban art outside the island. Most of the text is devoted to Cuban painters in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries who adapted European styles of painting to suit their tropical location.

Libby provides a brief introduction, "The Photographic Tradition in Cuba," as well as most of the analysis of individual artists. Art historian Juan A. Martinez offers a fine essay on "Cuban Painting in the Republican Period, 1902-1959." Martinez successfully contextualizes the art of academically trained painters by examining the historical and social currents of their times. He also provides a number of the essays on individual artists featured in the catalogue section.

English language works on Cuban painting of this period are few and far between. This book is recommended for anyone with a serious interest in pre-Revolutionary Cuban art.

Reviewed by Tina Bucuvalas, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

GLADESMEN GATOR HUNTERS, MOONSHINERS, AND SKIFFERS

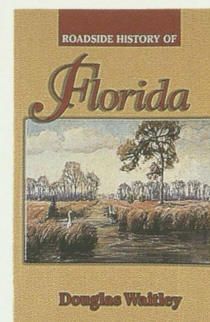
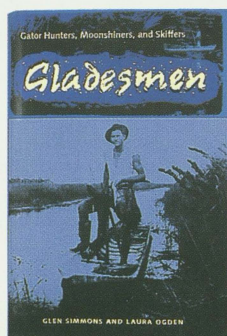
By Glen Simmons and Laura Ogden.
*Gainesville: University Press of Florida,
1998. ISBN 0-8130-1573-1, 224 pp.,
\$24.95, Hardcover.*

Gladesmen provides its readers with an insightful and often humorous view of the Florida Everglades from the perspective of gator hunter and skiff builder Glen Simmons. Simmons has chronicled his adventures and memories as the third volume of the University Press of Florida's **History and Culture Series**. With the assistance of co-author anthropologist Laura Ogden, they have created a remarkable publication. Based on notes that Simmons kept during his camping and hunting trips and interviews conducted by Ogden, *Gladesmen* is a wonderful opportunity to visit the Florida Everglades before the federal government made it part of the National Park system.

As a young man, Simmons learned from family members how to build glades skiffs. These flat boats propelled by a long pole are ideal for navigating the sawgrass of the Everglades. Based on the design of the Seminole dugout canoe, Simmons has spent countless days hunting, fishing and living within the confines of the skiff.

Gladesmen contains a variety of historic photographs, many from the Simmons' private collection, and the appendix provides instructions and a blueprint for building a glades skiff. For the reader interested in the lore and history of perhaps Florida's most unique natural resource, *Gladesmen* is both entertaining and educational.

Reviewed by Teresa Hollingsworth, Bureau of Historic Preservation.



ROADSIDE HISTORY OF FLORIDA

By Douglas Waitley. *Missoula MT:
Mountain Press*

Publishing Company, 1997.

ISBN 0-87842-366-4, \$30, Hardcover.

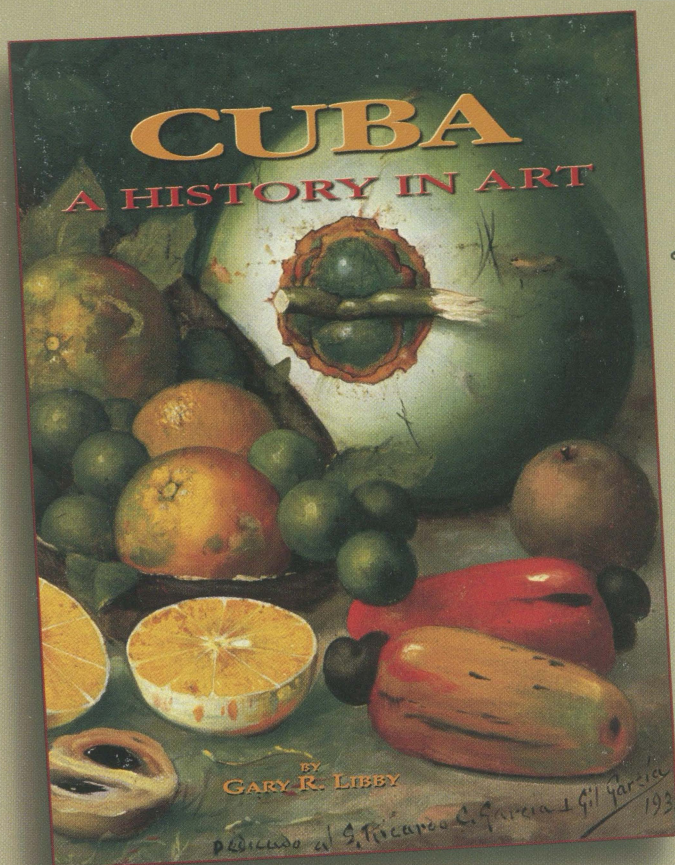
Douglas Waitley has given us a volume that is a history book, a great auto travel gazetteer, and a heritage tourism guidebook, all under one cover. It also is a collection of lively, often irreverent, believe-it-or-not stories from Florida's past, ancient times until the present, that will entertain the kids in the back seat. It's three books in one, suitable for reading, re-reading, and studying.

The book opens with a chronology of the geological and historical events that formed Florida, followed by a chapter that relates those events to eras and regions. The information squeezed into those few pages should be test material for anyone with professional, academic, political or hobby interests about the state of Florida.

Waitley next covers the history and attractions of regions of the state by focusing on Orlando, Miami, Tampa and St. Petersburg, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and their surroundings. In order to fill in the distance between cities and the state's major attractions, Waitley takes us down the Turnpike, across the Tamiami Trail, down and across I-75, along I-95 and US 1, along US 27, and out I-10 and US 98.

In the cities and along the highways, the author provides historical photos and vivid vignettes. The book will amuse and educate everyone from the serious student of Florida history, to the traveler wanting to find the small, the unique, and the authentic, and to the kids in the back seat.

Reviewed by Bob Trescott, Bureau of Historic Preservation.



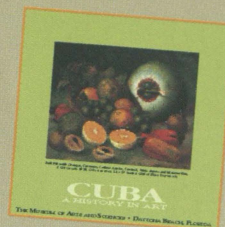
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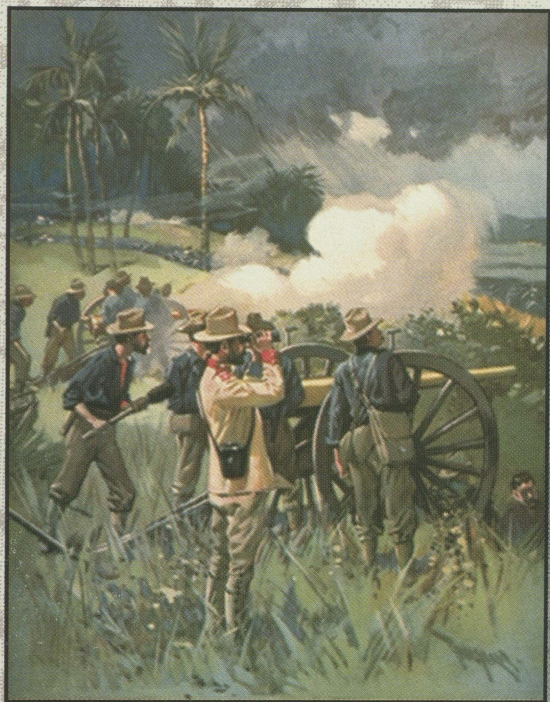
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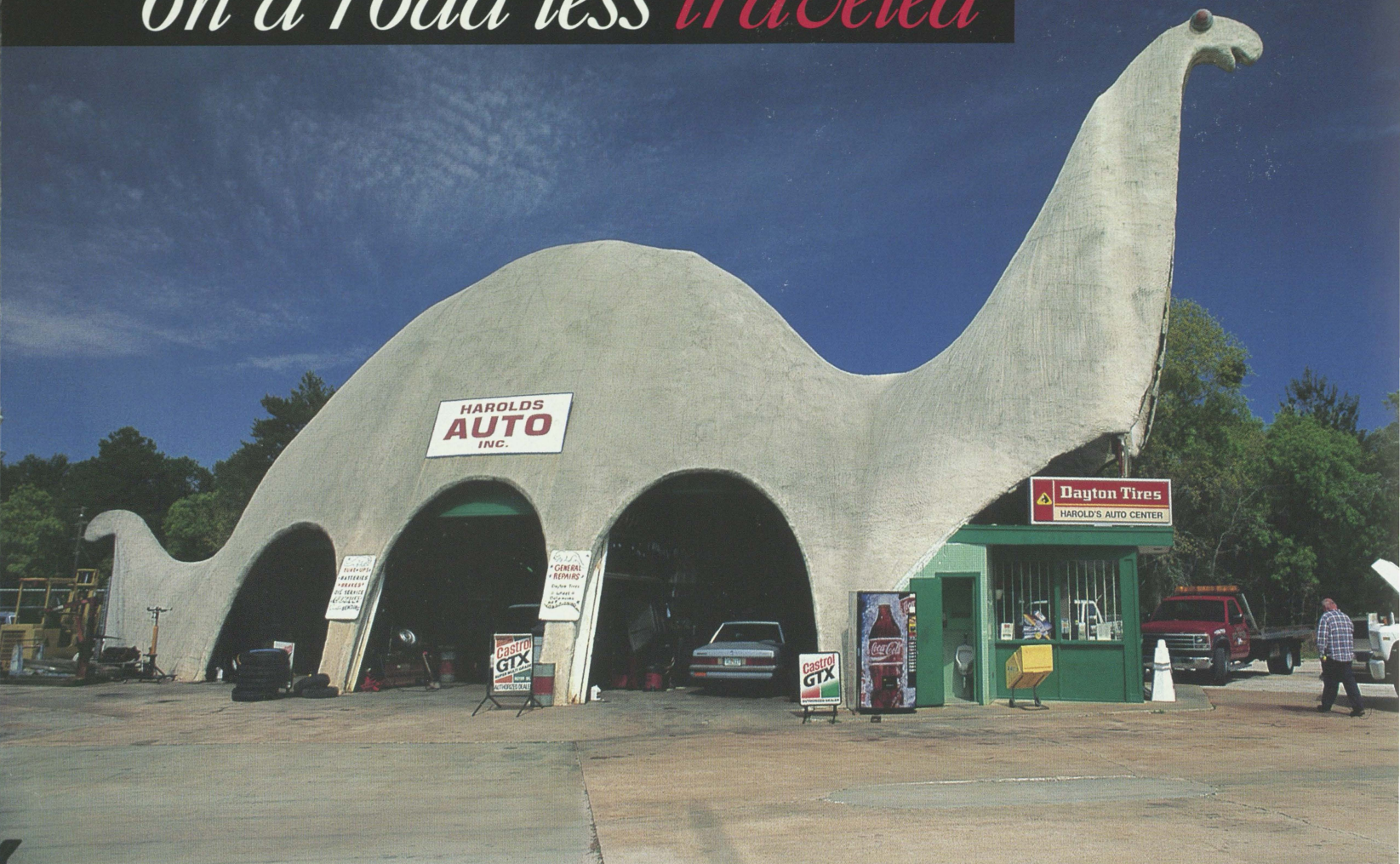
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on a road less traveled



FLORIDASAURUS

SIGHTINGS ALONG THE JURASSIC TRAIL

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

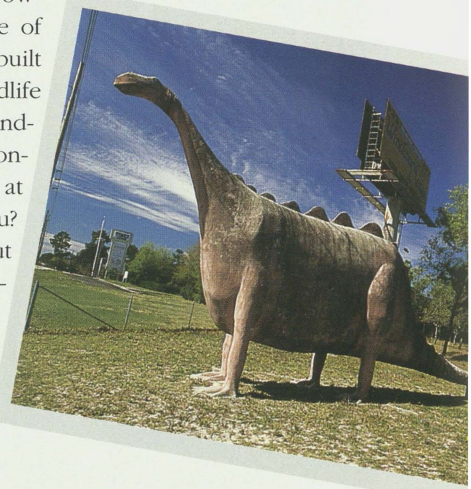
Some dinosaurs just never die. Testament to this is a large roadside reptile that is home to Harold's Auto Center along U.S. Highway 19 near Weeki Wachee. It has loomed above the tree line in this small community since 1960 when it was built as a Sinclair Oil Company filling station. Though "Dino" is extinct, this one still lurks along the roadside.

The dinosaur's grayed concrete exterior is supported by a metal framework that lifts its giant head to a comfortable browsing level with the nearby trees. Three arched carport openings help to define its shape. A red plexiglass eye bulges curiously and is lit from inside at night. The mouth is agape, perhaps dumbfounded over why a dinosaur would double as a repair shop, though it's much more than that.

Today, the dinosaur serves as a landmark. After all, if you're told to turn at the thirty foot dinosaur, you can't go wrong. That is, unless

there was a second dinosaur! And there is—a pink one about two miles south of Harold's.

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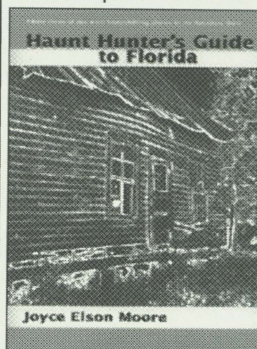
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Haunt Hunter's Guide to Florida

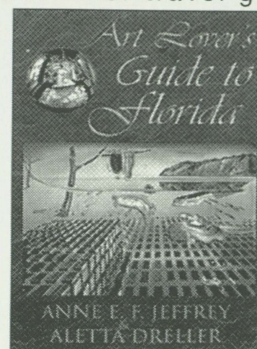
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